

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-16 and 18-22 are pending in the present application. By this Response, claims 1, 5, 15 and 18 are amended, claims 4, 7 and 17 are canceled, and claims 21-23 are added. Claims 1 and 15 are amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from dependent claims 4 and 7. Claims 5 and 18 are amended to correct their dependency in view of the cancellation of claims 4 and 17. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Ta for the allowance of claim 20 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-10 and 19. By this Response, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 7. A similar amendment is made to independent claim 15 with the features being added as method features. Thus, it is Applicants' understanding that claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-16 and 18-20 now stand in condition for allowance.

II. Telephone Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Ta for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the October 14, 2004 telephone interview. During the telephone interview, the above amendments to the claims and the newly added claims were discussed. Examiner Ta indicated that the amendments to the claims and newly added claims appear to be in condition for allowance subject to an updated search. However, Examiner Ta requested that the arguments with regard to claim 23 be provided in the record. The substance of the telephone interview is summarized in the following remarks.

III. Newly Added Claims 21-22

Claims 21 and 22 are added as apparatus and method independent form versions of originally filed claim 19. That is, both claims 21 and 22 recite the allowable subject matter of the locking features and mating pieces having openings through which a portion of a lock may be passed. Therefore, claims 21 and 22 are allowable over the prior art of record since they include subject matter indicated as being allowable in the Office Action.

IV. Newly Added Claim 23

Independent claim 23 is added to recite an apparatus for securing a computing device to a location similar to originally filed claim 1 with the addition features of a first locking mechanism being a locking sheath that is slidable along the network communication cable from a non-locked position to a locked position and from a locked position to a non-locked position, wherein when the locking sheath is in the locked position, removal of the first connector from the first communication port is prevented, and wherein when the locking sheath is in the unlocked position, removal of the first connector from the first communication port is made possible. None of the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest these features.

Jones (U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0139354) merely teaches the use of an Ethernet cable for communication in which the Ethernet cable has RJ-45 connectors at each end that plug into ports on a NIC or Ethernet card. Jones does not provide any teaching or suggestion regarding a locking mechanism being provided in association with the Ethernet cable.

Liao teaches a communication cable having steel braiding shielding material that increases its resistance to cutting. A locking mechanism is provided at one end of the cable for locking the cable to a computing device. However, the locking mechanism, element 64 in the figures of Liao, is not a slidable sheath that is capable of being slid along the cable from a non-locked position to a locked position and from a locked position to a non-locked position.

Blum (U.S. Patent No. 4,647,726) teaches a telephone security clamp which is slidable from a non-locked position to a locked position. However, Blum specifically states that the clamp cannot be removed from its locked position without destroying the clamp (see column 4, lines 16-24). Thus, Blum does not teach or suggest a locking mechanism that is a sheath that is slidable along a communication cable from a locked position to a non-locked position. To the contrary, Blum specifically teaches away from such a feature and requires that the clamp not be removable from the locked position without destroying the clamp.

Marson teaches a jack security device in which a lock 130, that is separate from the communication wire 210, is provided. The lock 130 has a portion that, when the lock 130 is placed in an opening 120-2 above the jack opening 120-1, has a portion that extends over the jack to obscure connector of the wire. This prevents someone from removing the connector from the jack opening 120-1. While Marson teaches a locking mechanism for preventing the removal of a connector from a jack opening, Marson does not teach or suggest a locking sheath that is slidable along a communication cable from a non-locked position to a locked position and from a locked position to a non-locked position. To the contrary, Marson merely teaches a completely separate locking mechanism that has a portion that may be placed over a connector of a wire so as to prevent removal of the connector from the communication port.

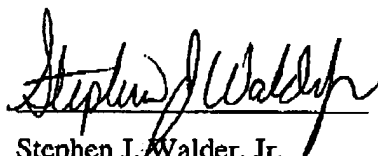
Thus, none of the cited references, Jones, Liao, Blum and Marson, teach or suggest the features of newly added claim 23. Therefore, claim 23 is allowable over the cited references whether they be taken alone or in combination.

V. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over Jones, Liao, Blum and Marson and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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